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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Magnesium and Calcium Production at
Bitterfeld

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1. Calcium and copper calcium production at Bitterfeld ceased at the end of June 1948. Electrolysis to produce raw calcium is expected to start again soon, but distillation facilities are not available.
2. In the case of copper calcium, stoppage of production is caused by the lack of spare parts; it is not possible to repair the existing plant.
3. Some of the electrolysis baths formerly used for the manufacture of calcium have been cleaned out and will now be used for the manufacture of magnesium. A yearly total of about 2,000 tons of magnesium is planned. Experiments are in progress for using the American process in production rather than the old method of producing raw magnesium from $MgCl_2$.
4. Difficulties, mainly with the electric wiring, are being experienced with the calcium and magnesium baths which are now being completely reconstructed. It will take some time before these plants start production.

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